

# THE MORNING SUN

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## HOME GUARDS CUT OFF.

**Also the Reserves, by New Pension Bill Brought in by Committee—Went Over Amid Discussion.**

A home guard is a man who has joined an organization prohibiting him from leaving his State unless the enemy enters therein. So said Senator Beard, speaking to the pension committee bill, special order for 10:30 A. M.

After a full morning spent in discussion, this bill was made a special order for today at 11:00. This will give those who oppose the bill time to add to the present full crop of amendments.

Several very important bills were passed: One in relation to the entry of judgments and decrees on supersedeas and appeal bonds against principals and sureties; one amending the pure food and drug law, and one providing clerical aid for the Judge of the Sixth Judicial circuit.

Senator Dayton caused merriment at the close of the roll call on this last bill. On second reading, the Senator from nineteenth had his hands full to keep it from meeting an untimely death; during roll call, he nervously marked each vote and while the clerk was counting them, he asked to have his vote changed to "nay" that he might reconsider. When the clerk announced the vote, it stood yes 13, nays 14. Senator Dayton's vote had killed the bill.

Amid laughter, Mr. Dayton was permitted once more to change his vote and the bill passed.

Special order brought up the committee pension bill. Senator Harris said the bill would cut out the home guards and reserves.

Senator Cone called attention to section five, which would compel applicants to make a new application.

Senator Harris admitted that this was practically the object, saying there were many on the roll who should not be there.

Senator Johnson thought the law of 1907 was too slack, and that it permitted deserters to get on the roll.

The pile of amendments in the hands of the clerk would tend to make one believe that the session this morning will be spent in consideration of this same matter.

## LETTER FROM MR. BLANTON.

Editor Morning Sun:

Sir:—I think justice requires the people should be better informed in regard to the report of the committee appointed to investigate free passes.

The committee report does not disclose the name of any person whatever who received a free pass. This report has been accepted and spread upon the journals. As stated in the report, we thought it unjust to mention the names of a few members of the Legislature and "sal- aried officers" when so many who were not strictly sal- aried officers were not mentioned. We therefore decided to get up a list as well as practicable within the limited time allowed us, and if the House so directed we would present it, the House being responsible.

We even intimated in our report that we doubted the utility of spreading the list of names on the journals.

It is true, I prepared the report, and I had specially in view the propriety of stating the general conditions, and of providing for the future rather than the punishment of any for past offenses.

Respectfully,

J. Ellis Blanton.

A dispute was raised as to whether a certain lawyer or a certain doctor was to have precedence at a function at which both were to play prominent parts. It was impolitic to allow either to be offended. While the discussion was under way an old politician said the discussion was one which he thought he could settle by giving them the words of Diogenes: "Let the thief go before; let the executioner follow after." The politician said he thought that meant the lawyer should have first place and the doctor come next. Milwaukee Free Press.

## ANOTHER GOOD BILL PASSES HOUSE

**Provides for a Board of Assessors to Place Valuation on Railroads for Purpose of Taxation.**

Passed by a vote of 55 to 1.

That's the record made by House Bill No. 645, by Mr. Farris of Duval.

This bill provides for the creation of a State Board of Assessors to assess railroad property in this State.

The Comptroller, the Attorney-General and the chairman of the Railroad Commission constitute the Board of Assessors.

This bill is of such importance to the State that its passage will compensate for any sine of omission of which the House may have been guilty up to the present time.

And it will not fail to add laurels to the Speaker's brow. Several attempts were made to amend the bill, all of them being apparently in good faith, but the temper of the House in regard to this bill was such that not even an amendment with a good feature was accepted, for fear something might in this way get in that would injure the bill.

So when Mr. Stokes offered an amendment that railroads should return, as part of their taxable property, their franchises, even those who favored such a sentiment were opposed to incorporating it in the bill under discussion, notwithstanding Mr. Stokes' argument and explanation that the franchise was counted by the roads as part of the value upon which the public must pay passenger and freight rates.

It was the same with Mr. Mahaffey's amendment providing that the board should take into consideration, in assessing taxes, not only the valuations as returned by the roads to the Comptroller, but also the valuation placed upon such property by the roads when making report to the Railroad Commission for rate-making purposes.

Mr. Mahaffey said that he was a friend to the measure, favored the creation of a Board of Assessors, and said that as the Comptroller rode on passes he needed help in assessing taxes against the railroads.

But explanation, argument and discussion were alike useless.

The bill was passed without amendment, 55 to 1.

## RAILROAD COMMISSION BILL.

**Passes House Unanimously—This is All that Commissioners Asked—It Will Extend, Improve, and Make Certain Railroad Commission Powers.**

And the bill passed, 60 to 0, which would be a fine score for a purely local bill and is a notable one for the bill which made this record, which is the Railroad Commission bill.

This is the bill that was prepared by Mr. Massey and the Railroad Commission after working under the old law for the two years covering Mr. Massey's services as special counsel for the Commission. During that time there has been much litigation engaging the attention of the Commission and its attorney, and the bill passed by the House yesterday morning embodies all that the Commission asked for.

It has been claimed that the law was not sufficiently elastic to permit necessary action by the Commission in many cases; the provisions of the present measure, therefore, are made to meet all emergencies which have presented themselves in the course of such litigation, and if the bill which the House passed yesterday so unanimously becomes law, it is "up to" the Railroad Commission to "do the rest," as they will be without excuse of lack of power thereafter.

## CHEAPER SCHOOL BOOKS.

**Wins In Senate, After Long, Hard Fight Led by Senator Dayton—He who Rides on Passes.**

If indications count, and sometimes they do count even in Legislative matters, Senator Cone saved the life of the Uniform Text Book Bill in the Senate Monday. This is the bill that has been passed through both Houses of the Legislature but in different years.

It is known as the Crane bill, which passed the Senate one year and the House the next year. Senator Cone introduced it late in the session, but was parliamentarily active enough to get it set for special order after having it printed.

There is no fake about this bill. It is for real Text Book Uniformity. It is not in favor of Mr. Ginn, Mr. Heath or the American Book Company. It is in favor of everybody who buys school books.

There were several Senators opposed to the bill, more or less inactively, but it was left to Senator Dayton to make the fight, which he did by every parliamentary device and tactics known. It was, perhaps, fortunate for the bill that Senator Dayton was selected to make this fight. He is the man who boldly declared in the Senate the other day that he rode on a pass because he was a railroad attorney, which declaration does not put him in a very good position to make a winning fight as the Senate is now constituted.

The Senator made his attack on the bill with amendments, which he wrote and introduced as fast as they were killed. Senator Cone each time appealed, not in vain, to the justice of the Senator, that the amendments were only an effort to kill the bill and not an effort to improve it, as amendments should do.

Senator Cone made a long fight, a hard and a good fight, and he succeeded in having the bill passed over to third reading, with the chances good for its passage, as indicated by the vote that rejected every amendment offered by Senator Dayton to kill the bill.

Senator McLeod did good work for this bill. He read letters from Superintendents of Public Instruction from Mississippi, North Carolina, Georgia and Virginia, all saying that State Text Book Uniformity had been tried in their States and had been found to be a good thing.

Notwithstanding the opportunity that Senators Cone and McLeod had to join in debate with Senator Dayton, they refrained because they saw there were enough votes to stop the game of the railroad pass-holding Senator—and the Senate voted every time just enough to save the bill.

The same subject is set for special order in the House next Thursday, when all of the bills touching on State Text Book Uniformity will be considered.

## SEVERAL WAYS OF KILLING

**But None Yet Devised That Will Get Rid of Sherman.**

The House, or a portion of its membership, is still fighting the Trustees in the matter of the employment of special counsel, as indicated by the introduction of a bill yesterday morning by Mr. Hilburn of Putnam, prohibiting the Trustees of the I. I. Fund and the Board of Education of the State from paying out any of the State funds or money derived from the sale of any of the State lands or for special counsel or attorney's fees, or as a commission on the sale of any state lands, except in cases of absolute necessity, where the Attorney General of the State asks for the employment of special counsel to assist him.

Sec. 2 of this bill provides that a violation of Sec. 1 shall be cause for removal from office.

It is hardly likely this bill will go through without a fight, if at all, as the Trustees have always been found ready to fight for what they believe to be their rights and privileges.